



# City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

## eNews

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 1, 2009

### For More Information, Contact:

Jack Browand, Division Chief at 703.746.5504

### **Public Comment Sought on Proposed Names for the Charles Houston Recreation Center's Gymnasium and Pool**

The City of Alexandria and the Charles Houston Ad Hoc Naming Committee hosted a public hearing on September 30, 2009 to review and receive comment on the proposal to name the Charles Houston Recreation Center gymnasium and pool in honor of African Americans in Alexandria who, from 1920 to 1965, played a significant role in the struggle for equal educational opportunity.

The Ad Hoc Naming Committee proposed the following for naming of the center's gymnasium and pool:

**Johnson-Siebert Gymnasium:** In honor of two men who served the City's African American youth.

- **Louis R. W. Johnson**, Parker-Gray High School coach and athletic director who, during his 20-year career, produced some of the best teams and athletes in Virginia.
- **Morris R. Siebert**, one of Johnson's star players, was a World War II veteran, Pentagon employee, and City Recreation employee who provided guidance and mentoring to youth in the Parker-Gray community for more than 20 years.

**The Memorial Pool:** To honor African American youth who drowned in the Potomac River and local creeks during segregation, when they were not permitted to use the City pool on Cameron Street.

Persons unable to attend may view the public hearing presentation at [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) and submit comments to Jack Browand by phone, 703.746.5504, and in writing by email to [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov), or RPCA/Jack Browand, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Deadline to submit comment is Tuesday, October 6.